

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance or into better condition for appeal.

Claims 55-86 are pending. Claims 40-54 are cancelled and claims 55-86 are added, without prejudice.

The amendments and remarks made herein are not made for reasons related to patentability and, thus, do not prevent the application of the doctrine of equivalents. Support for new claims 55-86 is found throughout the specification and from the cancelled claims.

No new matter has been added.

The drawings were objected to for allegedly not showing each and every feature of the claimed invention. Although Applicants disagree, the cancellation of claims 40-54 render the rejection moot. Further, Figures 1/3, 4 and 6 show each and every feature of independent claims 55 and 71. Consequently, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are respectfully requested.

Claims 40-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in a manner to reasonably convey that Applicants had possession of the invention. The rejection is traversed.

The cancellation of claim 40-54, without prejudice, has rendered the rejection moot. Further, Applicants clearly have possession of new claims 55-86. To this end, the Examiner is respectfully reminded of the state of the law in *In re Herschler*, 591 F. 2d 693, 700 (C.C.P.A. 1979), where the predecessor court to the Federal Circuit explained that:

The function of the description requirement is to ensure that the

inventor had possession of, as of the filing date of the application relied upon, the specific subject matter later claimed by him; how the specification accomplishes this is not material. The claimed subject matter need not be described *In haec verba* to satisfy the description requirement. It is not necessary that the application describe the claim limitations exactly, but only so clearly that one having ordinary skill in the pertinent art would recognize from the disclosure that appellants invented processes including those limitations.

In re Herschler, 591 F. 2d 693, 700 (C.C.P.A. 1979) (internal citations omitted).

Thus, against this background, Applicants believe that the instant specification and the figures contain sufficient information to make a skilled artisan appreciate that Applicants had possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing. For example, with respect to claims 55 and 71, “adhesive, activatable sheet-form drying device” and “a desiccant polymeric matrix containing a regenerable desiccant agent therin” find support in the specification on page 3, lines 7, 8, 12, 13, 16 and 17. The phrase “having pressure-sensitive adhesive properties” finds support on page 3, line 14. “A support layer disposed on one side of said matrix” is found on page 5, lines 28, 29, 34 and 35. And “a release liner disposed on the other side of said matrix” finds support on page 5, lines 11-16. Turning to the figures, claim 55 corresponds to Figure 1 / 4, and claim 71 corresponds to Figures 1 / 3 and 1 / 6.

Therefore, possession of the claimed invention clearly exists. Consequently, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 112, first paragraph, rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 40-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Although Applicants disagree and traverse the rejection, the cancellation of claims 40-54 render the rejection moot.

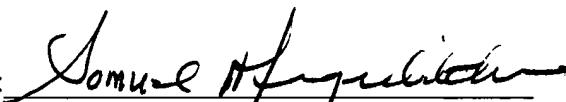
Consequently, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 112, second paragraph, rejections are respectfully requested.

Thus, favorable consideration of claims 55-86 is earnestly solicited. If, however, there is still an outstanding issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for its prompt resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

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